

Chicopee Register

Beautifying the brave

The Hero Project here to help

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

CHICOPEE – A local small business owner thinking outside of the box recently launched a fundraiser unlike most others. Ashley Battle is raising money to provide frontline workers with complimentary self-care sessions at her place of business, the Beauty Battles Lounge.

Through an endeavor that is aptly-named “The Hero Project,” Battle hopes to provide frontline workers with a variety of self-care services following the conclusion of the Covid-19 pandemic. She explained how the idea emerged.

“The Hero Project came from me seeing a lot of my friends sharing photos on social media of [frontline workers] with their facemasks. You can see the stress and how their skin is looking from having to



TURLEY PUBLICATIONS COURTESY PHOTO

Ashley Battle, owner of the Business Battles Lounge, in Chicopee, will be offering frontline responders free self-care sessions when the pandemic ends.

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VETERANS

Memorial Day celebration to go virtual

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

Similar to most activities this spring, the Memorial Day celebration that is scheduled for May 25 at Veterans’ Plaza will take on a different look.

Luckily, Veterans’ Services Director Stephanie Shaw is far from indifferent on the matter; she passionately assured residents that this year’s ceremony will occur and be broadcast for all to witness.

“I want the community at large to know that we’re not ignoring these events,” said Shaw. “We’re creating a video package of the traditional ceremonies to be aired through social media and ChicopeeTV as it normally would so that people can participate and view it from home.”

The Chicopee Department of Veterans’ Services is hard at work, preparing to honor an old tradition by means of a new



FILE PHOTO

Chicopee veterans stand at attention during last year’s Memorial Day observances. Ceremonies will go online this year as a result of COVID-19.

platform. A limited number of participants will conduct a ceremony in the plaza off of Front St. to honor those who have lost their lives during military service while others tune in remotely.

In addition to videotaping the memorial program, ChicopeeTV will create a one-hour Memorial Day package. The station plans air footage of the ceremony and additional pertinent content all

throughout the day.

“I think it’s going to have a bigger impact than people realize. We have a city of 55,000 people; we’ve never had 55,000

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PUBLIC SAFETY

Police Department receives funding boost

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COMMUNITY

Family foundation offers support to Harmony House

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HEALTH

Celebrate nurses this month

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SPORTS

Colts baseball would have had senior-heavy lineup

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Chicopee Register

Bellamy students hungry for education

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School Committee seat remains vacant

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Police receive \$155,000 in funding for safety

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

Only a handful of residents viewed last Tuesday’s virtual City Council meeting, but members of the Chicopee Police Department were fully attentive and heavily invested. Before the May 5 conference call ended, the department was appropriated \$154,850.

Multiple sources are responsible for the funding that will address a number of areas. A \$76,170 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice’s Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program will be used to meet various needs that have arisen during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Funds awarded under the CESF Program must be utilized to prevent, prepare for and respond to the coronavirus. Allowable projects include, but are not limited to, overtime, equipment, hiring, supplies, training, travel expenses and addressing the medical needs of inmates in state, local and tribal prisons, jails and detention centers,” said Orbin Terry, coordinator of the National Environmental Policy Act.

In the agenda issued to members of

City Council, the Police Department clarified that the money will be attributed to four projects, including the purchase of Personal Protective Equipment, touch-free thermometers, Panasonic Toughbook FZ-55 Laptop computers and two 13-foot by 13-foot pop-up canopies.

It is expected that the acquisition of the laptops will slow or prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the Public Safety Complex by eliminating the need for officers to share computers. The canopies will be used to create mobile workspaces and will be deployed immediately upon purchase.

In a separate motion, the city awarded the police department with \$62,000, which will be used to purchase 45 semi-automatic AR-15 rifles, said Ward 4 Councilor George Balakier. He added that the motion was five months in the making while Deputy Chief of Police Lonny Dakin offered further insight.

“This money will be used to purchase new patrol rifles. Our current inventory of patrol rifles are at the end of their use of life and need to be replaced,” said Dakin.

Balakier noted that the AR-15s will replace aging weapons that are currently used for training. He’s confident that the

appropriation is the right call.

“This is something that we need,” said Balakier. “There’s also going to be some additional equipment that supplement the rifles such as flashlights. This is something that needs to be done in order to protect our police, especially when they’re out on patrol.”

Public Information Officer Michael Wilk spoke on behalf of the department on May 11 when voicing appreciation for the individuals who proposed and unanimously approved the motion.

“We thank the Mayor [John Vieau] and City Council for supporting us. The upkeep and replacement of rifles is vital to ensuring that our officers have the right equipment in proper working order to ensure the safety of themselves and the citizens of Chicopee,” said Wilk.

Soon after, City Council approved another motion that will benefit the police department; \$16,680 is to be spent on the purchase of a dozen automated external defibrillators, equipment used to help individuals suffering from cardiac arrest.

“These will be for the purchase of 12 AED issues for the police cruisers. They’re needed, and this will keep us up

to date with this kind of equipment. It will be a reconnected set of used and will be in each of the patrol cars,” said Councilor-at-Large James Tillotson.

Robert Zygarowski, also a Councilor-at-Large, noted that the AED pads in City Hall will expire in March of 2022, expressing a desire for their timely replacement. Ward 9 Councilor Stan Walczak echoed his sentiment.

“I know that we have some at the golf course, Szot Park has them for any events there and City Hall, the School Department; we should get an inventory and update it and make sure they’re in good use,” said Walczak.

Shortly before the motion was unanimously approved, Ward 6 Councilor Derek Dobosz thanked the city for taking the initiative on a significant item.

“I want to say I appreciate the chief and the city for taking this step to make this investment and replace this equipment,” said Dobosz. “It’s valuable for CPR, and I just appreciate the chief for making that a priority. I’m very happy with this equipment being replaced.”

Dalton Zbierski is a Staff Writer and can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.

Ocean State Job Lot donates critical PPE to frontline workers

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

Ocean State Job Lot is making every dollar count in its effort to ensure the safety of frontline workers during the Covid-19 pandemic. The discount retailer is in the midst of a \$250,000 campaign that is donating supplies to 140 different communities.

“We have an opportunity and a social responsibility to have a positive impact throughout the Northeast, where our associates and customers live and work,” said Paul

Conforti, Chief Marketing Officer.

As part of its mission, Ocean State Job Lot is donating Personal Protective Equipment to first responders, medical personnel and frontline workers in each of the 140 communities that the business calls home.

With stores spread across Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont, the Ocean State Job Lot Charitable Foundation certainly has its hands full.

“We believe that during this time of crisis, we all have skills and abilities that can help with the fight against COVID-19. At Ocean State Job Lot, we are using our global supply chain to source critical supplies and immediately provide them to frontline workers,” said Conforti.

As the region struggles to produce an adequate supply of PPE, the retailer’s campaign is critically significant. In addition to the \$250,000 that Ocean State Job Lot initially put towards its endeavor, the business is en-

tering customer donations into the equation.

“Our customers have been incredibly generous,” said Conforti. “We’re using 100% of every donated dollar to purchase supplies, and we’re using our buying power to get the most for everyone’s money.”

Ocean State Job Lot employees have stepped up and are contributing through a variety of means. Team Leaders at each location are communicating with their local police and fire chiefs to identify each department’s needs.

From that list, the retailer’s Distribution Center is filling boxes with requested items and labeling each one for shipment directly to the stations, noted Conforti. During the pandemic, Ocean State Job Lot has been forced to reduce hours, staff availability and has been mandated to limit the amount of customers allowed in each store at once.

“All of these factors present ongoing challenges for our business. We feel fortunate to be able to remain open to serve our communities by providing

essential items, including food, paper products, household cleaners, hand soap and sanitizer, and other much-needed products,” said Conforti.

Inside of each location, Ocean State Job Lot employees are wearing face coverings and sanitizing regularly. Signage is posted on store doors to alert customers of safety recommendations, and Plexiglas shields have been added at registers to protect employees.

Register lines are also marked for social distancing and customers are being asked to use “contactless payment or credit card at the pin pad,” said Conforti.

In addition to distributing PPE, the Ocean State Job Lot Charitable Foundation supports numerous causes such as feeding the hungry, helping the homeless, assisting veterans and military families, caring for children and advocating for healthcare among others.

“Contributions made to the foundation are handled with the same business expertise, intelligence and focus on value used to run the Ocean State Job Lot retail operation,” said Conforti. “This ensures that every dollar entrusted to the foundation makes the greatest possible impact on the communities we serve. Ocean State Job Lot absorbs all of the expenses associated with operating the foundation so 100 percent of every dollar donated benefits the organizations we support.”



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GUEST COLUMN

Trends affecting representative democracy

By Lee H. Hamilton
Guest Columnist

We've seen plenty of evidence lately of the deep polarization in this country. Even in the midst of this crisis, national politicians, the political parties and their adherents are finding plenty to fight over—even as, for the most part, ordinary Americans have been remarkably united and many governors and mayors have worked hard to handle the coronavirus pandemic competently and guided by expert advice.

The question as we look ahead is whether the trends we'd been seeing before the pandemic will reassert themselves, or instead there will be some sort of reset. Because those earlier trends are extremely worrisome.

For years now, it's been common for politicians to label their rivals as unpatriotic and illegitimate. The deep freeze in cross-aisle relations in Congress had made progress there extremely difficult, though the crisis has given congressional leaders and members of the Trump Administration no choice but to keep bargaining until they hammer out agreements.

Other trends are equally problematic. The federal civil service, for instance, has always fielded a lot of very good people—dedicated public servants who try not to be partisan, remain independent in their views and support the work of whichever administration is in power. They want to make government work better. That has gotten much harder to pull off in recent years and the result is a civil service that is losing workers, institutional knowledge and competence. There are still capable civil servants, many of whom have been doing their best to keep federal services on an even keel during this crisis, but it's hard to escape the feeling that their impact has been diminished.

Likewise with the judiciary, which has become more politicized. It's a worrisome trend in a branch of government that has generally stood for even-handed justice and, over the long term, strengthened Americans' civil rights and civil liberties. The President, however, likes to say that his biggest achievement in office has been to put very conservative judges into power, a claim that undermines the judicial branch's standing as the pillar of independence this country long depended upon. Ideology will always play a role in judicial choices, but making judges more nakedly political is a destructive trend.

This extends to the media, as well. For whatever reason, it exercises less rigorous oversight of government and what does exist is more partisan. While there's coverage of national issues and politics, the trends have led to less robust local coverage and a less healthy democracy.

As polarization has deepened, Congress has gridlocked, presidential power has expanded (not a new thing, by the way), and the government has become less responsive and less effective. It took a national crisis to lay bare some of these issues, but the trends underlying them have been going on for some time, and fixing them will take time, too.

This has to start with ordinary Americans. Voters need to reclaim our democracy and demand that the system that made us a great nation—one that adhered to the checks and balances and separate institutional responsibilities laid out in our Constitution—be restored. At the community, state and federal levels, our job is to maintain the robustness of our institutions of government, agitate to ensure that they are performing as they should, and recognize that if the trends I've laid out strengthen their grip, our representative democracy will suffer. The threats may not be existential yet, but they could become so.

See **HAMILTON** page 5

GUEST COLUMN

Grateful American book prize

By David Bruce Smith
Guest columnist

'Remember the Ladies'... [we] 'will not hold ourselves bound by any Laws in which we have no voice, or Representation.'

- Abigail Adams, 1776

Universal suffrage came during a time of widespread heartache. The movement to win the vote for women, already in its vigor, was nearly toppled by a deadly Spanish Flu pandemic that walloped the country. It killed 675,000 Americans between January 1918 and December of 1920, according to historical accounts.

Carrie Chapman Catt, founder of the League of Women Voters, said "This new affliction is bringing sorrow into many suffrage homes and is presenting a serious new obstacle in our referendum campaigns and in the Congressional and Senatorial campaigns."

Despite the unexpectedly fierce foe, a brave and reso-

lute cadre of women secured the right to vote for their sisterhood. Congress passed the 19th amendment on March 27, 1920, ratified it five months later and ended "... almost a century of protest."

Under ordinary circumstances the centennial of a major historical event is celebrated throughout the nation, but now—just as then—a pandemic has put a pause on partying with pomp.

Meanwhile, it is important to remember that bickering over equal rights began during the Revolutionary War. While many colonists concentrated on relief from British subjugation in the 1770s and 1780s, future First Lady Abigail Adams, was also pondering another goal: how to include women in the political life of a brand-new country.

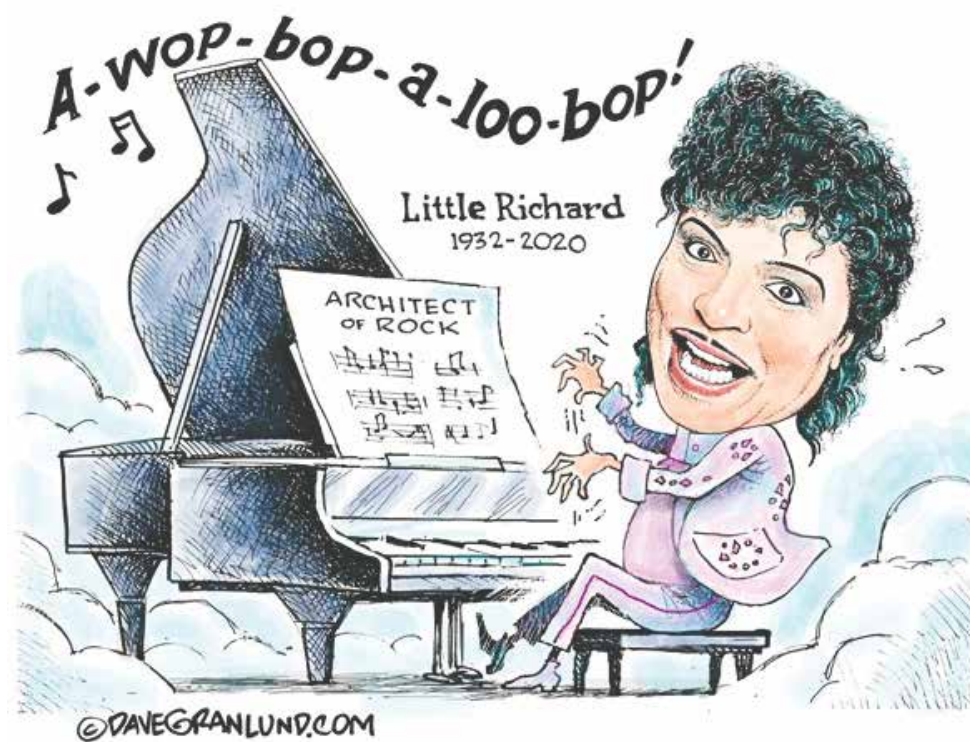
In a letter dated March 31, 1776 to her husband, John Adams, the prospective second president of the United States, she wrote:

"In the new Code of Laws which I suppose it will

be necessary for you to make I desire you would Remember the Ladies and be more generous and favourable to them than your ancestors. Do not put such unlimited power into the hands of the Husbands. Remember all Men would be tyrants if they could. If particular care and attention is not paid to the Ladies we are determined to foment a Rebellion and will not hold ourselves bound by any Laws in which we have no voice, or Representation."

The Grateful American Book Prize is an award offered for excellence in writing for adolescent historical fiction, and non-fiction, based on the events and persons that have shaped the United States since the country's founding. Judges for the 2020 Prize are now reviewing submissions. Works published between Aug. 1, 2019 through July 31, 2020, are eligible.

David Bruce Smith is the co-founder of the Grateful American Book Prize.



Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require letter writers to include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources.

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The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon.

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For more information, or to submit people or milestone news for The Chicopee Register, please email chicopeeregister@turley.com.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Warnings must never be ignored

To the editor:

Our administration's response to COVID-19 can be debated as to whether it was timely or too late. History will reveal the ramifications and sort it out in due time.

The question I would like to put forward is: What would potentially cause more pain, suffering and death, and global disruption than the present pandemic? The answer is global warming once it surpasses the point of no return. At that juncture, most species will die along with crops and everything that is pertinent in sustaining life on our planet, including our own.

Scientists and climatologists have made dire affirmations on the consequences of not acting seriously to the problem. The time to act was yesterday!

Bill Paul
Chicopee

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The Chicopee Register welcomes submissions of news in or related to Chicopee and its residents. Our "People News," is filled with submitted engagement announcements, wedding announcements, birth announcements, your new baby or news about your 25th or 50th anniversary celebrations. Please e-mail correspondence along with a photo to chicopeeregister@turley.com or send it to: Chicopee Register, c/o Turley Publications, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

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Peter Weston from the Beveridge Family Foundation, Pamela Quirk of Harmony House, and Ward S. Caswell, President of the Beveridge Family Foundation, after touring the construction work at the new Chicopee location of Harmony House of Western Massachusetts. The Beveridge Family Foundation has granted the organization \$35,000 toward the renovation of their new home for the terminally ill.

Beveridge Family Foundations donates to Harmony House

CHICOPEE – The Beveridge Family Foundation has awarded a \$35,000 grant to Harmony House of Western Massachusetts to be used towards the ongoing renovation of its new home for the terminally ill, located in Chicopee.

Harmony House is currently refurbishing a house in the Aldenville section, which when completed will be a five-bedroom home offering compassionate care for the terminally ill, specifically those who have limited resources for special care in the final stages of life.

A temporary home in Chicopee, which was in operation for two years and helped people transition from life to death in a dignified manner, was recently temporarily closed so that all efforts could be devoted to the renovation of the new home.

Dozens of volunteers and generous local companies are donating their talent and supplies to complete the home, which was scheduled to open this spring. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the completion and opening have been delayed, but work continues safely and conscientiously.

The mission of the Beveridge Family Foundation is to preserve and enhance the

quality of life by embracing and perpetuating Frank Stanley Beveridge's philanthropic vision, through grant-making incentives in support of programs in youth development, health, education, religion, art and environment, primarily in Hampden and Hampshire counties. Beveridge was the founder of Stanley Home Products in Westfield.

Harmony House is staffed mainly by volunteers of all kinds – nurses, CNAs, caregivers, companions, and more, and is a nonprofit organization. It is entirely privately funded through the generosity of individuals, businesses, and foundations. Contributions are gratefully accepted at all times. For more information, visit the Harmony House website at www.harmonyhousewma.org.

Please visit the website at www.harmonyhousewma.org for more information or to make donations. It is also possible to send a check to Harmony House of Western Massachusetts, P.O. Box 6135, Holyoke, MA 01041. If interested in learning more or becoming a volunteer, please contact Harmony House by email at harmonyhousewma@gmail.com.

New Family Defense Practicum to help children and indigent parents

SPRINGFIELD – The Western New England University School of Law will introduce a Family Defense Practicum into the JD curriculum in the spring of 2021. This immersive experiential learning opportunity is the result of a partnership between University's School of Law and the Committee for Public Counsel Services, the statewide public defender system.

Working with the CPCS's Children and Family Law program, the initiative is designed to help alleviate the shortage of certified attorneys who have the time and training to represent families in need in Western Massachusetts. The program will be helpful in preparing students for future CAFL work and those who want to participate in the CAFL Pipeline Program.

"We at CPCS are very excited to have students join us in our work in the Juvenile Courts," says Barra Cohen, staff attorney at the Amherst-Northampton CAFL Office. "I think that many people may not realize the important work that is done there. In part that may be due to the fact that in Massachusetts care and protections occur in impounded courts so

the public is not allowed in. We hope that this program will help to bring awareness to this interesting and important area of law and in turn bring in passionate new lawyers into the fold."

Participants in the Family Defense Practicum will spend 16 hours a week at their job site working under the supervision of staff attorneys as student lawyers in the Children and Family Law division of CPCS. The CAFL division provides legal representation to both children and indigent parents in child welfare matters. Student lawyers will have the opportunity to represent parents in child welfare proceedings as well as child clients who are verbal and can articulate their position. They may also have the opportunity to represent infants and toddlers, in which the student lawyer will aid in substituting judgment for the child.

Practicum applicants must satisfy all prerequisites, attend an orientation and weekly seminar and fulfill the requirements for student practice certification under SJC Rule 3:03.

For more information, visit wne.edu.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

In the spring of 2021, the Western New England University School of Law will introduce a Family Defense Practicum as part of the JD curriculum. For more information visit wne.edu.

HAMILTON from page 4

Because here's the thing. People may distrust government, but just as the pandemic has made clear that at bottom there's no palatable alternative to an effective and competent government system, so it's also true that the only way ultimately to solve the problems and worrisome trends of government is principally through government action. Which means that in the end, as citizens, we have to forcefully step up to our responsibilities

ties and insist that our public officials do so, too.

Lee Hamilton is a senior adviser for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

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Celebrate the work of nurses this May

SPRINGFIELD – National Nursing Month provides an opportunity to shine a spotlight on the many nurses both on the front lines and behind-the-scenes in the unprecedented battle with the novel coronavirus.

Traditionally celebrated from May 6-12 each year, the celebratory week has been expanded to a month-long celebration to elevate and celebrate nursing as part of the “Year of the Nurse and Midwife,” sponsored by the American Nurses Association.

According to a statement from the ANA, “Honoring our nation’s nurse heroes is more profoundly significant than we anticipated when extending the traditional National Nurses Week to a month. The global COVID-19 pandemic shifted the focus from the “Year of the Nurse and Midwife,” but now more than ever we must support and recognize nurses who work with courage and compassion under extremely challenging circumstances.”

Christine Klucznik, DNP, RN, vice president of patient care services and chief nursing officer at Baystate Medical Center, agrees that it is important to recognize the commitment and dedication of Baystate Medical Center nurses and others around the country who are treating extremely ill COVID-19 and other patients requiring care during the crisis.

“I am in awe of the commitment and dedication of our Baystate nurses who tirelessly step forward every day to care for so many severely ill COVID-19

patients,” Klucznik said. “Nobody could have imagined a global pandemic to sweep our world so soon, putting the lives of many at risk in nearly every country in the world. The physical and psychological burden placed on nurses on the front lines is unparalleled in their history as caregivers. Yet they have shown a resiliency in dealing with an unknown virus, which requires them to put new skills to work for their patients as more is learned about the virus.”

Whether it is a national health emergency or routine daily care, nurses’ vital contributions impact the health and well-being of our communities, which is why ANA selected the theme of May as “Nurses Make a Difference.”

A second theme announced by the World Health Organization before the coronavirus pandemic began making news is “Year of the Nurse and Midwife 2020” in honor of the anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale, considered the founder of modern-day nursing. Her principles of hygiene including hand-washing, which she implemented while tending to wounded soldiers during the Crimean War, apply to the current fight in preventing further spread of the novel coronavirus.

Asked why someone might want to enter the nursing profession today, Klucznik said when making her nursing rounds during the pandemic, those nurses treating COVID-19 patients have her told her, “This is why I went into nursing.”

“Treating patients during the pan-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Amber Leary, RN, is a Baystate Medical Center nurse currently working on a COVID-19 unit. Baystate is celebrating nurses as part of National Nursing Month.

demic has further exemplified what nurses feel so passionately about – compassion, empathy and caring for the human condition at its most vulnerable time,” said Klucznik.

Today, nursing offers a range of opportunity not available to nurses when Florence Nightingale made her mark in the mid-19th century. Those considering a career in the highly-respected profes-

sion can choose to practice as clinicians, administrators, researchers, educators and policymakers, and similar to Baystate Medical Center, nurses work in a variety of settings outside of the hospital as well, including physician practices, home health services, outpatient clinics and community health centers.

For more information on Baystate Health, visit baystatehealth.org.

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BASEBALL

Colts would have had senior-heavy lineup

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

CHICOPEE — Justin Franczek had a rich pool of talent to work from in the Chicopee Comprehensive baseball system. Despite graduating a high number of seniors last year, eight, the Colts likely would not have missed a beat this season.

Comp was bringing up seven seniors this year, and Franczek also said several juniors would have made the squad and he is disappointed they lost their opportunity to play at a crucial point in their own careers.

Franczek recognized the following:

Anthony Folta, an outfielder and pitcher.

“He was all league last year as our leadoff hitter,” said Franczek. “Would have slid down to three in the lineup and been our best hitter. Would have been a three-year starter in right field for us. Would have been a very good lefty starter for us.”

Travis Kagan and Isaias Gomez, both talented football players, would have been big contributors on the diamond this spring.

Kagan was an outfielder and pitcher. The coach said he would have ended up as the leadoff hitter and a starting pitcher. Gomez would have spent his third year in the outfield and provided more speed for already fast lineup.

Tucker Dalessio played



FILE PHOTOS

Travis Kagan fields a base hit to right during a playoff game last year.

second base, but also DHed at times.

“He’s a killed hitter who forces his way into the lineup,” said Franczek. “Great hands. Barrels the ball. Missed his Sophomore year with a devastating knee injury and was slow to start the year last year but came on strong towards the end of the year and would have been a key cog in the middle of the lineup.”

Jacob Corales was a two-year varsity team member.

“He’s a great teammate with infectious energy,” said

Franczek. “First to congratulate a guy, or pick them up. Would have played a significant role as fourth outfielder and provided much needed speed on the base paths.”

Backstop Nick Messer did not get a lot of opportunities to play at the varsity level, backing up a three-year starter.

“Outstanding defensive catcher,” said Franczek. “I am probably the most disappointed for him that he won’t get a

See **COLTS** page 8



Isaias Gomez makes the catch in center during a game last season. Gomez is one of seven seniors that would have been on the team this spring.

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Senior athletes to be honored in coming weeks

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

The Turley Publications sports department is looking to honor the senior athletes who have had their spring seasons cancelled by the coronavirus pandemic.

Over the next several weeks, the sports section will have stories and photos about the various spring sports teams that were never even able to have a practice, and eventually saw their full season cancelled. You can see them starting in this week’s editions.

We will be talking with spring coaches and athletic directors, but would also love to hear from senior players about their feelings about the spring

season being cancelled.

We hope to also publish action photos of seniors from previous seasons, though parents and coaches are encouraged to send photos of seniors they would like to see published in the upcoming editions of the paper.

If you don’t see your child’s sport in the paper, please encourage your son or daughter’s coach to contact us so they can all be included.

All submissions can be made to Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at sports@turley.com. In the subject line, please identify the school and sport you are writing in about. Senior athletes are also encouraged to write in to talk about the season that wasn’t.

GOLF

Golf courses allowed to open, carts for those with a physical need

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

After more than a month of waiting, a sigh of relief has come over at least one sport as Gov. Charlie Baker lifted the ban on golf courses. Golf courses were able to open up last Thursday after Baker took heat for being the only state in the country not to allow golfing.

Two golf courses in central Massachusetts, one of them being Wachusett Golf Course, was set to re-open despite the governor’s ban, but Baker lifted it before owners could defy him.

His move was not made without restrictions, many of which will slightly change how the game is played temporarily, such as the fact that flags must remain in the hole and flags that are hit with the ball not going in the hole are considered a completion of that hole.

One restriction that was met with a lot of unpopularity was the banning of the golf carts, requiring that people walk from hole to hole. For many older golfers, that made the prospect of hitting the course not feasible, and was something that would likely continue to chase golf business to neighboring states, including Connecticut.

But Sunday morning, Baker announced he was lifting the ban on carts, but only for people who show a physical need for them.

According to Mass. Golf, the sport is a \$2.8 billion business in the state. Because golf can be done with a certain level of social distancing, many people have been clamoring for the re-opening of courses.

For now, with a number of guidelines, golfing is now possible for all ages. Not every golf course has opened, but most private courses have made the de-

cision to open. Because Baker allowed course to employ maintenance staff during the full stay-at-home advisory period, most course were kept up and ready to go last Thursday when the order was lifted.

Municipally-run courses can be opened at the discretion of the individual towns. Agawam Mayor William Sapelli immediately opened Agawam Municipal Golf Course.

If you are thinking about heading out to the golf course, here are a few of the things you should know to play the game properly and safely under state guidelines: All golfers must maintain proper social distancing of at least 6 feet at all times. Groups of players are restricted to no more than 4 players at one time. Tee Time Policy must be 15 minutes between groups. Golfers

See **GOLF** page 8

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American Hockey League cancels remainder of 2019-2020 season

SPRINGFIELD - The Springfield Thunderbirds, in conjunction with the American Hockey League (AHL) and Chief Executive Officer David Andrews, announced today that the league's Board of Governors has voted to cancel the remainder of the 2019-20 AHL regular season and the 2020 Calder Cup playoffs due to the ongoing COVID-19 public health crisis:

"After a lengthy review process, the American Hockey League has determined that the resumption and completion of the 2019-20 season is not feasible in light of current conditions. The League's operational focus has turned toward actively preparing for the 2020-21 season. We are very grateful to the National Hockey League and its teams for their support and

leadership in navigating through the challenges faced over the past two months. The AHL continues to place paramount importance on the health and safety of our players, officials, staff and fans and all of their families, and we all look forward to returning to our arenas in 2020-21."

The AHL's standings – sorted by points percentage – and statistics as of March 12, 2020, are considered final and official, and will serve as the basis for determining league awards for the 2019-20 season.

Statement from Springfield Thunderbirds' President, Nathan Costa

These truly are unprecedented circumstances, and though it is not the outcome that we all hoped for, we fully support the decision made today by the

American Hockey League to cancel the remainder of the 2019-20 season. On behalf of the entire Thunderbirds organization, we would like to thank our great fans for their unwavering support this year as well as the Florida Panthers for their commitment to our city during the first four years of our franchise. Please continue to adhere to all local and federal guidelines in an effort to stay safe, and I can't wait to see all of you in a few short months to kick off our 5th Anniversary season at the MassMutual Center in 2020-21.

Though the final standings will show the T-Birds on the cusp of a playoff berth for the first time in their history, we continued to make an impact in the Springfield community during our fourth season. We had nine sell-outs through the short-

ened 20-21 season, the same number as all of last season, as well as eclipsing the 5,000 per game attendance mark for the second consecutive season with an average of 5,262 per game. Next season will be a special one for the organization, as we begin a five-year affiliation agreement with the defending Stanley Cup champion St. Louis Blues to coincide with the club's fifth year of existence.

As an organization we have been proactive about reaching out to fans with tickets to remaining games, but if you have not yet made a decision in regards to those tickets, a Thunderbirds representative can help you by calling (413) 739-GOAL or by visiting our Live Chat on our website, www.springfieldthunderbirds.com.

Valley Wheel Over-30 Baseball League looking for new players

REGION – The Valley Wheel Over-30 Baseball League is seeking new players for the upcoming 2020 season. The league is seeking players ages 28 and up. Players turning 28 this year are eligible. However, only players 30 and older can pitch. The league plays 15 regular season games with games being held mostly on Sundays with a couple of weekday games thrown in the mix as well as a special Mother's Day Saturday game in early May. However, due to the current circumstances, the league schedule has been pushed back. The league still plans

to play its season once bans on gatherings are lifted. The league is built on comradery, fair play, and having a good time with friends. If interested in trying out, go to www.valleywheelbaseball.com. The rules of the league and new player forms can be found on the site. For further information, you can contact the league's commissioner, Jim Nason at wheel12@comcast.net or call him at (413) 433-4308. Tryouts will be take place as soon as conditions are allowed, but new player applications are still being accepted.

Sign-ups on hold for Quabbin League

REGION – The Quabbin Valley Over-30 Baseball League is seeking new players for 2020 season. The league has six teams, several with open roster spots. Last year, the league voted to allow players age 28 and 29 to be able to join the league, though players under 30 are not eligible to pitch. The cost of the league this season is \$192. For returning and new players, sign-ups have been placed on hold until a determination has been made on the season going forward. The

league is hopefully to begin play sometime in June or July. The season is 15 regular season games plus at least one playoff game. A modified schedule is being worked on by league officials. Games are nine innings and metal (BBCOR -3) or wood bats are allowed. Fields locations are throughout Western Mass. For more information on the league, or if you are interested in registering, go to <https://www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org/>. The league is also in Facebook.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

GOLF from page 7

must stay in their car until 15 minutes before their tee time and must return to their car immediately following play. All golfers must use their own golf clubs. Sharing golf clubs or rental golf clubs is not allowed.

These are the rules for golf course: Course facilities including but not limit-

ed to the clubhouse, golf shop, restaurant, bag room and locker room must remain closed. Personnel will be present to enforce social distancing. No other employees will be allowed to work at the recreational component of the golf operation. All staff must wear face coverings while on property. Members-only clubs can allow guests as determined by the secu-

rity personnel on the golf course. Private clubs that allow non-members to make reservations can do so at their discretion. Maintenance personnel are permitted to work on the golf course. Online and remote payment options must be utilized. Flagsticks must remain in the hole. Hole liners must be raised so picking a ball out of the hole doesn't occur. Bunker rakes

must be removed, and ball washers must be removed or covered. Practice putting green, driving range, and chipping areas must be closed. Facilities must have readily accessible hand sanitizer.

It is possible these restrictions will receive another look as the state begins to re-open. Golf is currently the only sport being played in the state.

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COLTS from page 7

chance to truly show how good he is."

Jayman Gill-Suaava was a four-year member of the program, but would have been a first year varsity player this year. He would have been an infielder, competing for a starting spot at both second and third base.

Franczek said he was really looking forward to how this crop of players would have done against the competition.

"It was certainly going to be a fresh start this spring and I was very excited to see a bunch of these senior guys shine," said Franczek.

He said watching the calendar tick away is tough.

With the season being canceled it certainly has been difficult sitting at home and watching the games tick past on the calendar," said Franczek. "As a coach, we do this for the kids first and foremost, those interactions and memories with kids are the best. We'll miss our annual trip to Cooperstown this spring, which is always a great trip and day full of memories for the kids. It's not just the competition that we miss, it's the day to day of being with the student athletes and the inside jokes that you remember and share as teammates."



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BEAUTY from page 1

wear a mask. I started thinking, ‘They could probably use a facial when all this is over,’” said Battle.

The Beauty Battles Lounge is a beauty spa located at 661 Front St. that offers services ranging from waxing to facials. Battle noted that the business also provides more advanced beauty services such as microblading, body sculpting and other procedures “that help to enhance your beauty.”

The funds that are raised will be reserved until frontline workers are able to capitalize on the free services that Battle is offering. She has pledged to extend the offer to health care professionals, police officers, fire fighters, EMTs and employees of sheriff’s departments.

“It’s a community-based way to pay it forward and say thank you for all the hard work and stress that they’re going through right now; once this is all over. They’ve all been really inspiring; it’s very empowering to see them continuing to do what they signed up to do,” said Battle.

As part of the Hero Project, Battle encourages frontline workers to share their stories with the public so that residents fully understand the trials and tribulations that they are facing. She delved deeper into the philosophy.

“I have that aspect of it, which is ‘Our Community Voices.’ I’ve been reaching out to different people; it’s for them to give some testimonial to their experience and how Covid-19 has impacted their lives, especially frontline workers,” said Battle. “I’m trying to get their voices out there. I want people to feel it; to realize how real it is and how much it’s impacting our community itself.”

The act of creating the Hero Project brought Battle a sense of relief. With her



A poster of “The Hero Project” being carried out by Ashley Battle, owner of Beauty Battles Lounge.

mental health teetering on the edge, the project renewed her energy.

“The Hero Project has helped me get out of a funk that I was in, especially with my services being so one-on-one,” said Battle. “They’re personal; I’m touching you. We’re not six-feet apart; we have to be face-to-face. I have to touch you to offer my services otherwise I have nothing, right? Mentally, this has really helped me.”

Battle encourages others to find a cause to rally behind during this difficult time. She’s also looking for other businesses to join in the effort.

“I’m looking for different businesses to collaborate with me in the Hero Project and be able to use it as a platform to cross promote one another and support each other, especially small businesses,” she said.

For more information on the project and how to donate, one can visit <http://beautybattles.com/about.html>.

MEMORIAL from page 1

at the plaza. Now we have the opportunity for every resident to participate and view it no matter what their availabilities are. It’s an amazing idea that no one really thought of before,” said Shaw.

The annual Memorial Day ceremony awarding the Charles Tracy Award to Chicopee’s “Veteran of the Year” has been postponed to a later date, as has the Gold Star Family Luncheon, a gathering for families of military members who have died in the line of duty.

“Not everything can be done virtually,” said Shaw. “There are a few events that we’re going to postpone. While they tend to be private events, I do want the community to know that they will be happening and they’ll be by invitation.”

Shaw and her staff feel fortunate that this Memorial Day can be adequately celebrated. On a day designated to remember those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our country, it is critical to pay the proper respects.

“It’s just a small token of gratitude to be able to take an hour and see how your community is honoring those lives and that service and that commitment,” said Shaw.

A number of ways exist to access the reoccurring program on May 25; residents can tune into ChicopeeTV, visit ChicopeeTV’s Vimeo page, locate the link on the Veterans’ Services website or view any of the department’s social media pages.

Technological advancements have benefited the veterans’ community in more ways than enabling the Memorial Day celebration to be experienced by all. Shaw and her staff are further capitalizing on its virtual resources.

“Technology has opened a door to allow us to do this,” said Shaw. “We’ve been able to work remotely and still take new

applications for state and federal benefits. We are actually closer with [the veterans] now; we’re doing weekly check-in calls with over 100 benefits just to say, ‘How are you doing?’”

Shaw continued on to compliment her staff and members of the committee who share the responsibility of organizing the May 25 celebration. Recording the event will offer the city documentation of how it unfolded, which Shaw expects will be used for many years to come.

“Necessity is the creator of all inventions,” she said. “For the generation of volunteers that facilitate all of these city events, technology is not traditionally their friend, but they’re all so open to working with me, working with the TV studio and working with my staff to preserve these things. The fact that we have to do it differently is devastating, and I hate that, but in the long run, it’s going to allow us to preserve traditions and share them with more people.”

For more information regarding the upcoming event, one can visit the department’s website at chicopeema.gov/286/Veterans-Services.

Dalton Zbierski is a Staff Writer and can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.

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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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Classified Advertising DEADLINES

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FRIDAY AT NOON**

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MONDAY AT NOON**

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PUBLIC NOTICES

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD20C0099CA
In the matter of:
Brittany Nicole Fields
CITATION ON PETITION
TO CHANGE NAME
A Petition to Change
Name of Adult has been filed
by Brittany Nicole Fields of
Chicopee MA requesting that
the court enter a Decree chang-
ing their name to:
Brittany Nicole Marraccini
IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for
purposes of objecting to the**

petition by filing an appear-
ance at: **Hampden Probate
and Family Court before
10:00 a.m. on the return day
of 06/02/2020.**

This is NOT a hearing date,
but a deadline by which you
must file a written appearance
if you object to this proceed-
ing.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara
M Hyland**, First Justice of this
Court.

Date: May 05, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
5/14/2020

**SALE OF
MOTOR VEHICLES
Under G.L. c.255 Sec. 39A**
Notice is hereby given
by **Interstate Towing, Inc.**

pursuant to the provisions of
G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that
on May 29, 2020 at Interstate
Towing, Inc the following
Motor Vehicles will be sold
at private sale to satisfy our
garage keeper's lien thereon
for storage, towing charges,
care and expenses of notices
and sale of said vehicles.

2004 CADILLAC DEVILLE
VIN: 1G6KD54YX4U250342
Andres Ortiz
18 Snell St
Sturbridge, MA 01566

2007 HONDA ACCORD
VIN: 1HGCM66567A103176
Jessica Shleigh
1 Harwood Cross Rd
Brookfield, MA 01506

2007 MAZDA 6
VIN: 1YVHP84C575M56598

Shaunna Shea
17 Raymond Dr
Hampden, MA 01036

2009 HYUNDAI ELANTRA
VIN: KMH DU46D99U816021
Jenny Lee Verville
50 Theroux Dr
Chicopee, MA 01020

2012 NISSAN ALTIMA
VIN: 1N4AL2EP6CC132119
Lamier Owens
13 Underwood St
Springfield, MA 01104

2012 RAM RAM3500
VIN: 3C63D3CLXCG102096
Starlight Auto
70 Switzer Av
Springfield, MA 01109

2014 DODGE AVENGER
VIN: 1C3CDZAB3EN216333
Sierra Kong

50 Harding St
Agawam, MA 01001

2019 SUBARU IMPREZA
VIN: 4S3GKAA66K3628423
Donlen Trust
3000 Lakeside Dr
Bannockburn Dr
Bannockburn, IL 60015
5/14, 5/21, 5/28/2020

**SALE OF
MOTOR VEHICLES
Under G.L. c.255 Sec. 39A**

Notice is hereby given by
Interstate Towing, Inc. pursu-
ant to the provisions of G.L.
c. 255, section 39A, that on
**May 15, 2020 at Interstate
Towing, Inc** the following
Motor Vehicles will be sold
at private sale to satisfy our
garage keeper's lien thereon

for storage, towing charges,
care and expenses of notices
and sale of said vehicles.

2000 DODGE NEON
VIN: 1B3ES46C4YD871210
Donlen Trust
3000 Lakeside Dr
Bannockburn Dr
Bannockburn, IL 60015
5/14, 5/21, 5/28/2020

2007 CHEVROLET AVEO
VIN: KL1TD56677B124640
Brian Reyes
152 Plainfield St
Springfield, MA 01104

2001 FORD FLEX
VIN: 2FMGK5CC8BBD04718
Mia Carroll
4787 Nermont Place
Gary, Indiana 46409
4/30, 5/07, 5/14/2020

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Mayor shares COVID-19 response, phased easing of restrictions

CHICOPEE — Mayor John Vieau, the Chicopee Health Department, and the city’s COVID-19 Task Force team announced they are moving forward with the following updates. This is possible because the Chicopee Health Department data shows the infection rate to be stabilizing and the city’s resources are adequate at this time. These updates are based on a balance between maintaining the health and safety of our residents while decreasing restrictions.

Non-essential areas
The Chicopee Health Department along with Vieau is allowing, at their discretion, essential stores to conditionally open their non-essential aisles to customers.

As of May 8, the Chicopee Health Department reports 129 active cases, bringing the city to a total of 310 cases. The five reported deaths within the city were older adults with an underlying health

condition. Despite the five deceased people, Lisa Sanders, director of the Chicopee Health Department explained that the strict and early action kept the city from a catastrophic spread of the virus.

Vieau and Sanders are awaiting news from the Governor’s office regarding the guidance of the re-opening of other retail, restaurant, and other non-essential establishments that are anxiously waiting to reopen their locations. Under Baker’s latest order, those businesses are only able to offer e-commerce services.

“These currently open businesses have been following the safety guidelines that the Governor and our Health Department put in place to limit the number of customers that can be in the store at one time,” Sanders said. “They are and must continue following the social-distancing guidelines and face-covering order - and we expressed to the owners and

managers that they should open aisles, if they choose to do so, with care and intelligence.”

“We need to be smart about this,” Vieau said, “It doesn’t mean you open up 100 percent of your space and allow everyone in to browse. The whole point of this is to allow a business to slowly return to a new normal with social distancing built-in.”

State face mask covering order
The Chicopee Health Department has rescinded its mandatory policy and procedure for wearing a mask or other face coverings during the coronavirus pandemic. This move is in response to the Governor’s order on May 6, that set forth a framework for a statewide requirement for wearing a face-covering, whether indoor or outdoor, and not able to or doesn’t maintain a social distance of six feet from every other person. To review the Governor’s Face-Covering

Order please visit: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/may-1-2020-masks-and-face-coverings/download>

“Governor Baker’s announcement of a state coordinated face-covering effort makes our local orders no longer necessary and has led to some confusion,” Sanders said. “Therefore, so as not to confuse our residents, we have taken the step of rescinding our respective orders and directing residents to the one voice of the Governor.”

“We encourage residents of the city to continue to follow the Governor’s executive order,” Vieau added. “Hopefully, we will soon see a return of our favorite businesses and other activities while at the same time protecting our most vulnerable citizens.”

Postponements
Following discussions with the Department of Parks & Recreation and the Department of Planning & Development, the

city will postpone both its annual July 4th Fireworks and the 6th annual Downtown GetDown to future dates.

Parks Superintendent Benjamin Strepka and Planning Director Lee Pouliot will begin discussions this spring through early summer on developing a combined celebration for these two events. Through their combined efforts, Vieau is confident that a unique, hybrid celebration will be possible that continues the tradition of celebrating the nation and Chicopee’s heritage while shining a spotlight on the community’s local talent, businesses, and cuisines.

“We are suspending these events to a later date, with hopes of having a better idea of where we’re heading with the coronavirus,” said Vieau, emphasizing that the city does not want to cancel any events. “I am encouraged by the possibility of a bigger and better event for

us to celebrate when we can ensure everyone’s safe participation.”

Details of this future event will be released by Strepka and Pouliot when event dates can be determined and based upon future re-opening plans for the City.

“While we are disappointed that we will not be able to hold our annual July 4th Fireworks Celebration, we are excited and eager to collaborate with the Planning Department on a new and unique event this year,” said Strepka, who sees the situation as an opportunity rather than another cancellation. “Out of this situation, we can go back to the drawing board, use our creativity and resources, try some new things, and put together an awesome celebration for the City of Chicopee.”

Main library offers virtual programs, free masks
While Chicopee Public Libraries remain closed temporarily due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the staff was utilizing websites, social media pages, and ZOOM meetings to keep the virtual library open.

“Closing our doors does not mean we’ve stopped providing the wide variety of resources for our community,” Library Director Nancy Conতোis said. “We’ve just had to get more creative with how we are delivering them.”

Working with Director Conতোis and her staff, Vieau will be able to give the public easier access to the required face-coverings. If anyone needs a face-covering, call the Front Street library at 413-594-1800.

Golf course opened May 11
Chicopee Country Club’s Municipal Golf Course was open for limited business on Monday, May 11. There will be modified rules for play and social distancing requirements in effect at the golf course until further notice. Please call 413-594-9295 for Country Club tee times and schedules.

“Exercising and getting out will help people stay healthy,” said Vieau, “I hope everyone acts responsibly and follows the guidelines that the Club has put in place.”

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